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THE WANDERER

106TH EDITION 15 FEB 2020 #WSWvNEW

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FRIDAY 21 FEB KICK-OFF 7:30PM WANDERERS V S ADELAIDE WANDERLAND

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THIS MATCH

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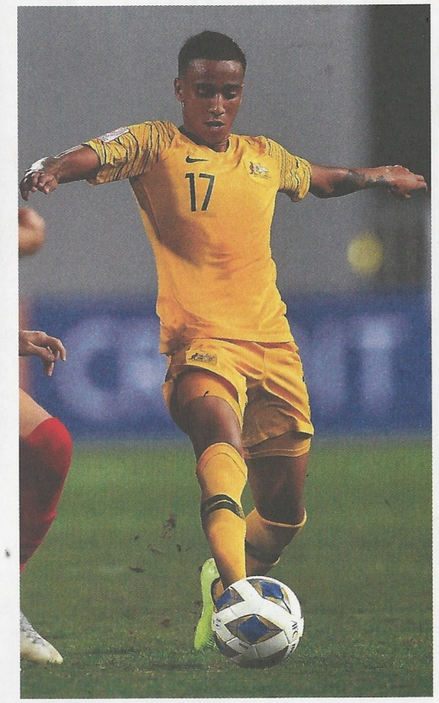

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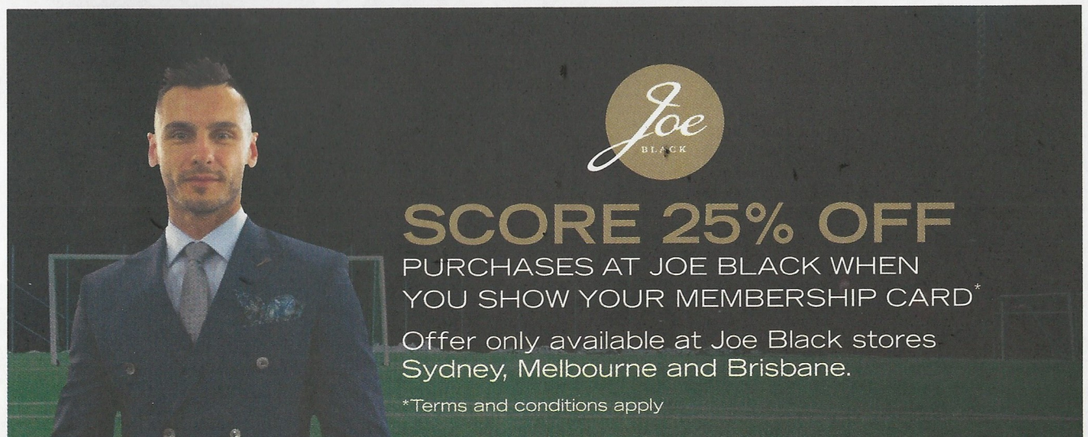
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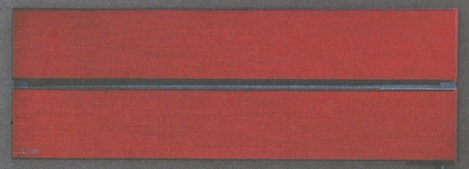

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CATHERINE CANNULI

WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS LEGEND
AND WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE ASSISTANT COACH

THIS WEEKEND HYUNDAI A-League and Westfield W-League clubs are celebrating Play Football Round, encouraging junior football participation and registration across the country for the upcoming grassroots season. At each match this weekend there will also be different activations featuring grassroots clubs and players getting involved pre-match in the precinct and on the field during half time. Specifically, at tonight's Hyundai A-League match, the Wanderers will be focusing on Football 4 All recognising all abilities football. Football has been used across the world as a vehicle for social change and inclusion by bringing together people of all abilities with the goal of living a healthy and active lifestyle. I can't imagine my life before football and I'm so thankful I signed up for my junior club when I did because it has completely shaped me into the person I am today. Football has given me opportunities in life that I could have never dreamed of as both a player and now a coach. Signing up for your local club will change your life and not only does it provide playing opportunities, but also a support network for families, volunteers, and coaches to experience inclusion and belonging in the football world.

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MATCH PREVIEW

THERE'S NO PLACE like home as the Wanderers return to Bankwest Stadium tonight for the first time in almost a month to play Newcastle Jets in a vital Round 19 Hyundai A-League clash.

Following a resounding 3-1 win over the Central Coast Mariners on 2nd February, the Red & Black will be looking to continue to build momentum under interim head coach Jean-Paul de Marigny.

The Wanderers will go into the game fresh given the postponement of last week's Sydney Derby because of the state of the ground, something that has allowed de Marigny even more time to work with the squad.

The eighth-placed Wanderers (17 points) have plenty to play for as they look to make a late charge towards the A-League Finals.

They are just five points off sixth spot held by Brisbane Roar, but the Queenslanders have played one extra game.

With Nicolai Muller leading the way, the Red & Black produced one of their best performances of the season against the Mariners in Gosford. They were well organised in both attack and defence and there was plenty of hunger and belief.

Among the many positives to emerge from the win was the debut of marquee striker Simon Cox, who came off the bench midway through the second half.

Despite only being in the country a matter of weeks, the former Irish international had an immediate impact, earning a penalty that saw Mitchell Duke convert from the spot.

Cox then made certain of the three points by scoring late in the game after a swift Wanderers' counter attack.

The marksman, who was in line to start in the Sydney Derby had the game gone ahead, will be fitter for that run and better acclimatised given the extra week of training.

Having lost to the Jets away in the first round, the Wanderers will be looking to exact some revenge. However, it is likely to be a tough encounter.

History shows that games against the Jets are usually evenly contested and hard fought. They have met 22 times with both teams recording eight wins apiece with six draws.

The Jets are also coming off a win against the Mariners and will have a new coach at the helm so they will be keen to impress the new boss as well as attempting to get off the bottom of the table. W

(Top to bottom) Mitchell Duke is all smiles at training; Kwame Yeboah and Nick Sullivan warm-up together

TONIGHT'S MATCH DAY PARTNER

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FIELD REPORTER

CATHERINE CANNULI
@CANNULI_13

IT'S BEEN A history making season already for our Wander Women but it's important for us to stay grounded and make sure we don't get too far ahead of ourselves.

Thanks to a bye round last week, we've had a solid two weeks to prepare for tonight's Sydney Derby at Cromer Park.

Looking back on our previous meeting with them in Round 6 this season, the Sydney Derby fixture was a major moment for our club.

Not only did we play in the first ever Sydney Derby at Bankwest Stadium but we smashed it, defeating our arch-rivals 5-0.

It was our first win against Sydney since 2014 and it made people sit up and take notice.

The win announced us a major force in the Westfield W-League and it was arguably our best ever performance in our history.

With only three matches to go until the end of the regular season, we are in a great position to add to our honours this season, including a first-past-the-post title and a first time appearance in the Westfield W-League Finals series.

While we have a tough finish to the season, a Semi Final spot appears all but assured for us as we are in second spot on the ladder and five points clear of fifth-placed Brisbane Roar.

The chase for top spot could go down to the wire with destiny out of our hands as we need to win all three remaining games and hope that competition leaders Melbourne City lose two of their last three.

Still all of that is just a sideshow at the moment with the team focused understandably solely on the Sydney Derby as we look to make history in having a clean sweep in Sydney Derbies in the season. W

ON THIS DAY

ON THIS DAY in 2017, we had four Wanderers named in a 25-player Matildas squad at the AIS. It was the biggest representation of Wanderers in the national team in the club's history with Ellie Carpenter, Casey Dumont, Jada Whyman and Caitlin Cooper named in the side. W

COX READY TO BE UNLEASHED

HAVE THE WANDERERS FOUND THE MISSING PIECE IN THEIR PUZZLE?

IT HAS BEEN only three weeks since Simon Cox touched down in Western Sydney and it's no surprise that he's already made an immediate impact.

The experienced marksman boasts an extensive resume of playing in more than 500 matches in all competitions in England and has close to 100 goals to his name.

Cox has hit double figures on the goal scoring tally in his last three seasons overseas and is known to be a no-fuss, passionate, routine goal scorer.

A player that wears his heart on his sleeve, doing anything that he can for his teammates, Cox made the big decision in January to leave the comforts of England to move across the world to the unknowns of Western Sydney.

The unknowns of a new training ground and new teammates were quickly put to bed with the striker acclimatising quickly to life in Western Sydney thanks to the help of his teammates.

"I've found my feet quite nicely and pretty quickly actually, it's a lot easier for me when you come into a group and they're welcoming," explained Cox.

"With the game being called off on the weekend (Sydney Derby), obviously it wasn't great as everyone was looking forward to that but it gave us a chance to put some good work in on the training ground.

"I'm not here to sit and watch, I've come here to play, score goals and help the team achieve good things."

"Apart from the weather recently, it's been really good."

Doing his research before committing to a club on the other side of the world, Cox spoke to former teammates who had played in the Hyundai A-League to gain an understanding of what to expect from both the competition and the club.

"I spoke to a few people who had played over here before and they only said good things about the Wanderers and about the stadium, but then when I came here to the training ground I was really surprised," said Cox.

"I wasn't expecting the level of facilities that are here, so I was really pleased with that.

"Because the training ground is where we do our work, this is where we are at more times than we are at home.

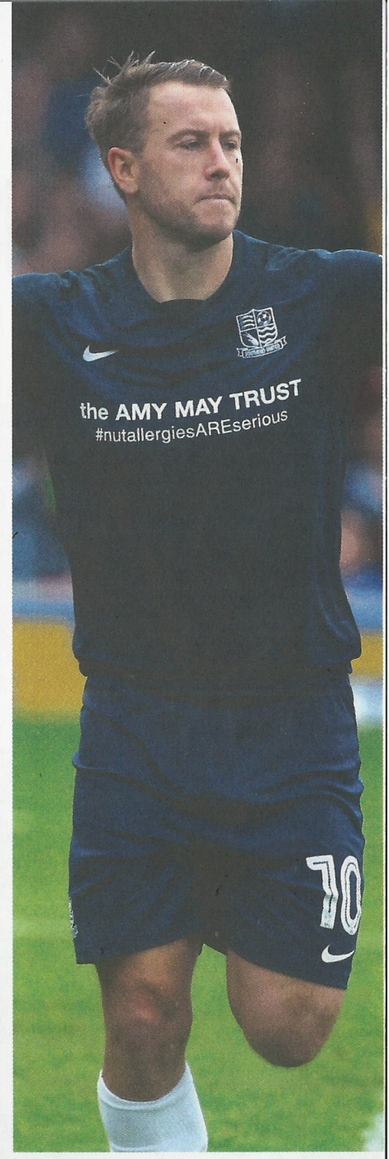
"So I'm a big believer that the training ground has to have a good environment for everybody to want to do good work."

After only a week's worth of training sessions, Cox was thrown straight into action in the Wanderers away match against Central Coast Mariners.

There was plenty for Cox to get used to.

From the pre-match meal, transport to the game and the palm trees at Central Coast Stadium.

"We came here to the Wanderers Centre of Football, had a pre-match meal, had a meeting and then we left on the bus to go to the game.



(This page) Cox celebrating goals for Nottingham Forest, Reading and Southend

"I'm very new to this when it comes to how long it takes to get to games, so we were just chatting on the bus on what to expect.

"Then you pull up to a stadium with palm trees in the background and you think what's going on here?

"It was a lovely stadium, the pitch was decent and obviously I wasn't expecting to start as I was only here for a week so it was nice to get off the bench and get a significant amount of minutes in and help the boys get three significant points.

"It's been a good start, and now I want a bit more of that."

A good start is certainly an understatement.

The marksman had an immediate impact in the Central Coast, winning the Wanderers a penalty and scoring a goal in the Red & Black's comprehensive 3-1 win over the Central Coast.

Having now had a taste of what is expected in being a Wanderer, Cox has been counting down the days until his debut at Wanderland.

"I'm not here to sit and watch, I've come here to play, score goals and help the team achieve good things.

"The ambition from the top is that we need to make the finals and if I can help the whole team be successful then that's what I'm here to do.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead and you can see that if you do win a game, you can close the gap a bit quicker and we're looking forward to the task ahead."

And what better place to close the gap on the ladder than Wanderland?

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KEANU BACCUS		JETS
12	GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON	15
63.3%	TACKLE SUCCESS RATE	55.6%
26	INTERCEPTIONS	8
12	TOTAL SHOTS	5
469	SUCCESSFUL PASSES	453
9	FOULS WON	5

KEANU BACCUS
#17 MIDFIELDER

BENJAMIN KANTAROVSKI
#5 MIDFIELDER

WE ARE THE WEST.

HAPPIER HARRISON

IT WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION AT FIRST, BUT AMY HARRISON COULDN'T BE HAPPIER THAT SHE'S RED & BLACK

WITH HER EXPERIENCE and the sublime quality of her football, the classy Matildas midfielder has been pivotal in the emergence of the Wanderers as a force in the Westfield W-League this season.

Harrison's signing was one of the key moves by Wanderers head coach Dean Heffernan and his assistants Michael Beauchamp and Cath Cannuli.

But, it took a little bit of procrastination before Harrison eventually decided to make the move from defending champions and bitter rivals Sydney FC to their crosstown rivals.

"It has been good. I love it," Harrison said of her season so far with the Wanderers.

"I am really happy with the decision I made.

"I think the club is really going in the right direction and everyone here is just so levelled headed, so caring, so respectful.

"Obviously that comes from the coaching staff down. It is such a great group of girls and I couldn't be happier.

"For sure, it was (a big decision).

"I didn't have the greatest season with Sydney last year and, to be honest, I never thought I would leave Sydney yet alone come to their rivals.

"I spoke to Nules (Catherine Cannuli) a little while ago and Dean.

"I didn't know how to choose, I didn't know what I was going to do so then I said I'll just stay at Sydney, but I just couldn't bring myself to sign (there).

"I knew then and there I wasn't going to go back. I spoke to Dean again and made the decision."

The move to the Wanderers has been a blessing for the 23-year-old, who is hoping the move out west will help her refocus and kick start her career with the Matildas.

Capped 10 times for her country, Harrison admits it is hard to look on while the Matildas are in camp preparing for the Olympic Games qualifiers.

"I love Sydney and I always will because it has been such a big part of my life and career, but you have to move on at some point," said Harrison.

"While I have such good memories there I think now is perfect time to be here, to refresh and live the game more than I did and be around new people and evolve as a person as well.

"Being at the Wanderers gives me more motivation to get myself back in there (the Matildas) and do all I can to get back there."

As one of the high profile signings at the Wanderers, Harrison is cognisant of the expectations on her.

But, the heavy burden of expectation is not something she allows to get into her mindset.

"There's a lit bit of it (expectation)," Harrison said. "At Sydney there's a lot more bigger personalities.

"But, everyone here is equal and treated exactly the same no matter who you are, whether you are a visa player, a Matilda or a train on. We are such a close-knit group.

"The most important thing is that everyone here is a good person.

"We all get along so well and our team morale is probably one of the best I have ever been involved with in my career and I think that helps.

"That's why I like here so much, there's no hierarchy. You are respected no matter who you are and that's all that matters."

With the regular season drawing to an end and the finals rapidly approaching, the Wanderers face a tough finish to the season with games against Sydney FC, Melbourne City and Perth Glory still to come.

It's a daunting task, especially for a club that is looking to play finals football for the first time, but one Harrison believes the Wanderers will relish and hold them in good stead.

"Obviously in the finals you are going to be playing the Sydney's and City's so, if anything, it is the best preparation we could have asked for," added Harrison.

"But, then again every team on their day can win.

"We lost to Adelaide which was probably not our best game but then we can beat Sydney 5-0. It's who is there on the day and who is going to perform.

"But, its the perfect preparation for us going in (to the finals)." W

Big smiles from Amy Harrison as she leads the team onto the pitch at Bankwest Stadium.

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SQUAD

S	B	#	NAME	POSITION	SPONSOR
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☐	☐	4	DYLAN **McGOWAN**	DEFENDER	ACCESS FIRE
☐	☐	5	DANIEL **GEORGIEVSKI**	DEFENDER	VACCARO GROUP
☐	☐	6	MATTHEW **JURMAN**	DEFENDER	MATE
☐	☐	7	MITCHELL **DUKE**	FORWARD	PEPPER MONEY
☐	☐	8	JORDAN **O'DOHERTY**	MIDFIELDER	JD SPORTS
☐	☐	9	NICOLAI **MÜLLER**	FORWARD	STULZ
☐	☐	10	SIMON **COX**	MIDFIELDER	TURNER FREEMAN LAWYERS
☐	☐	11	BRUCE **KAMAU**	FORWARD	CASTLE HILL HYUNDAI
☐	☐	13	TASS **MOURDOUKOUTAS**	DEFENDER	TRINITAS GROUP
☐	☐	16	MATHIEU **CORDIER**	DEFENDER	BELLROCK BROKING
☐	☐	17	KEANU **BACCUS**	MIDFIELDER	BEST SIGNS
☐	☐	19	PIRMIN **SCHWEGLER**	MIDFIELDER	CENTURIA
☐	☐	20	VEDRAN **JANJETOVIC**	GOALKEEPER	JOE BLACK
☐	☐	22	NICHOLAS **SULLIVAN**	MIDFIELDER	A.S.S. FENCING
☐	☐	23	KOSTA **GROZOS**	MIDFIELDER	GPP EXCAVATIONS
☐	☐	27	KWAME **YEBOAH**	FORWARD	REES ELECTRICAL
☐	☐	28	FABIAN **MONGE**	MIDFIELDER	CHOICE PHARMACY
☐	☐	29	DANIEL **WILMERING**	MIDFIELDER	WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
☐	☐	31	NOAH **PAGDEN**	DEFENDER	BELLROCK BROKING
☐	☐	33	TATE **RUSSELL**	DEFENDER	INDUSTRIAL HARVEST
☐	☐	34	PATRICK **ZIEGLER**	DEFENDER	MULTIQUIP
☐	☐	35	MOHAMED **ADAM**	FORWARD	LANDSCAPE SOLUTIONS
☐	☐	40	NICHOLAS **SUMAN**	GOALKEEPER	HERTZ

COACH

JEAN-PAUL **DE MARIGNY**

ASSISTANT COACHES

LABINOT **HALITI**

DAVIDE **DEL GIOVINE**

SUBSTITUTES

OFF	ON

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

LADDER

CORRECT AS OF ROUND 18

#	CLUB	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	SYDNEY FC	15	13	1	1	40
2	MELBOURNE CITY FC	17	9	3	5	30
3	PERTH GLORY	16	8	5	3	29
4	WELLINGTON PHOENIX	16	7	3	6	24
5	ADELAIDE UNITED	16	8	0	8	24
6	BRISBANE ROAR FC	16	6	4	6	22
7	WESTERN UNITED FC	16	6	3	7	21
8	WANDERERS FC	15	5	2	8	17
9	MELBOURNE VICTORY	17	4	4	9	16
10	CENTRAL COAST MARINERS	16	4	1	11	13
11	NEWCASTLE JETS	16	3	4	9	13

ROUND 19 MATCHES

SCORE VS SCORE

SCORE VS

BYE

Westfield W-LEAGUE

LADDER

CORRECT AS OF ROUND 11

#	CLUB	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	MELBOURNE CITY FC	9	8	1	0	25
2	WANDERERS FC	9	6	1	2	19
3	SYDNEY FC	9	6	1	2	19
4	MELBOURNE VICTORY	9	5	2	2	17
5	BRISBANE ROAR FC	9	4	2	3	14
6	CANBERRA UNITED	10	3	1	6	10
7	NEWCASTLE JETS	10	2	1	7	7
8	PERTH GLORY	9	1	2	6	5
9	ADELAIDE UNITED	10	1	1	8	4

P PLAYED W WINS D DRAW L LOSS PTS POINTS

ROUND 12 MATCHES

SCORE VS SCORE VS

SCORE VS SCORE VS

BYE

SQUAD

#	NAME	POSITION	S	B
1	GLEN **MOSS**	GOALKEEPER	☐	☐
2	BOBBY **BURNS**	DEFENDER	☐	☐
3	JASON **HOFFMAN**	DEFENDER	☐	☐
4	NIGEL **BOOGARD**	DEFENDER	☐	☐
5	BENJAMIN **KANTAROVSKI**	MIDFIELDER	☐	☐
6	STEVEN **UGARKOVIC**	MIDFIELDER	☐	☐
7	ROY **O'DONOVAN**	FORWARD	☐	☐
8	WES **HOOLAHAN**	MIDFIELDER	☐	☐
9	ABDIEL **ARROYO**	FORWARD	☐	☐
10	DIMITRIOS **PETRATOS**	FORWARD	☐	☐
11	NICK **FITZGERALD**	FORWARD	☐	☐
14	KAINE **SHEPPARD**	FORWARD	☐	☐
16	MATTHEW **MILLAR**	MIDFIELDER	☐	☐
18	JOHNNY **KOUTROUMBIS**	DEFENDER	☐	☐
19	KOSTA **PETRATOS**	DEFENDER	☐	☐
20	LEWIS **ITALIANO**	GOALKEEPER	☐	☐
23	MATTHEW **RIDENTON**	MIDFIELDER	☐	☐
25	JACK **SIMMONS**	MIDFIELDER	☐	☐
28	PATRICK **LANGLOIS**	DEFENDER	☐	☐
29	CONNOR **O'TOOLE**	DEFENDER	☐	☐
31	YERASIMAKIS **PETRATOS**	FORWARD	☐	☐
32	ANGUS **THURGATE**	MIDFIELDER	☐	☐
40	NOAH **JAMES**	GOALKEEPER	☐	☐
44	NIKOLAI **TOPOR-STANLEY**	DEFENDER	☐	☐

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CARL **ROBINSON**

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KENNY **MILLER**

QIANG **LI**

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JUNIOR WANDERER OF THE MATCH

You could be featured as our Junior Wanderer of the Match at each of our home games this season! Be featured in the match day magazine plus get your photo shown on the big screen!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!

Send your answer to competitions@wswanderersfc.com.au. The most passionate answer wins!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the five differences below?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: 1. The "a" in Centuria is missing from Caitlin Cooper's shorts, 2. The bottom of the Ball kids jacket is green, 3. The line marking's are missing, 4. One of the hoops on Cortree Vine's jersey is missing, 5. The Nike tick is missing from Caitlin Cooper's jersey. JUNIOR QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Sydney FC, 2. Lynn Williams, 3. Nicolai Muller, Simon Cox, Mitchell Duke 4. Courtney Newbon

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THE CORNER POST

How good is Play Football Round!

There's nothing quite like getting your friends and family signed up for to your local club and spending the entire season together playing the beautiful game.

This week we had the opportunity to promote junior and senior registrations to the whole of Australia!

On Tuesday morning, we headed out to ANZ Stadium with Amy Harrison, Sam Staab and Daniel Georgievski to promote Play Football on breakfast show Sunrise.

It was a great opportunity to hang out with some of the fellow mascots from the Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-League, Socceroos and Matildas.

We got so close in winning the mascot race but we fell centimetres short with the Jet taking out the honours!

Lucky for us, Georgievski won the penalty shoot-out against Sydney FC making sure that Sydney was Red & Black.

JUNIOR QUIZ

1. Who did the Wanderers Westfield W-League team play today at Cromer Park?
2. Name the Wanderer who has been away with the US National Team for the last few weeks.
3. Which three players scored in the Wanderers last match against the Mariners?
4. Which Wanderer is originally from Tasmania?

INCLUDES ACCESS TO THESE MATCHES

	SYDNEY DERBY XXIV		EASTER SATURDAY	ANZAC DAY
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NEWBON MAKING MOST OF CHANCE

COURTNEY NEWBON COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HER EYES AS SHE WALKED OUT ON TO BANKWEST STADIUM FOR HER WANDERERS WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE DEBUT LAST MONTH

IT WAS A special moment for the girl from Tasmania as she took her place in goals for the game against Perth Glory, which the Wanderers eventually won 3-1.

To play her first senior game for the Red & Black was a special achievement in itself, but, as she put it "to do it at a Stadium like Bankwest was amazing".

"It was a bit nerve racking, but exciting just the same," said Newbon.

"I was stoked to do it at Bankwest because it is such an amazing stadium.

"I remember a couple of years of years ago I was at the Wanderers on a short term injury replacement contract and we walked out on to ANZ Stadium and I was like 'wow.'

"Then to have my debut at Bankwest and to get all three points ... that was something else and nothing to complain about!".

With the Red & Black having signed quality American goalkeeper Abby Smith, Newbon didn't expect to get her opportunity to play in the starting eleven so quickly.

But when Smith injured her knee, head coach Dean Heffernan had no qualms elevating Newbon into the role for the Perth game and she responded with a quality performance.

Newbon, who came to Sydney from Tasmania with her family at a very young age and is a product of the Sutherland Shire, paid tribute to the injured Smith, saying the American had been a huge influence on her.

"She has been a great help to me," said Newbon.

"We tend to bounce off each other. So if something comes up in training she might see it one way and I might see it another.

"So we kind of bounce it around and kind of come to something that might work better. For sure she has been an influence."

Newbon's second stint at the Wanderers came about after she was invited to trial with the club last year following a good season with Sydney University.

"(Assistant Wanderers coach) Cath (Cannuli) contacted me and said they would like me to have a trial," said Newbon.

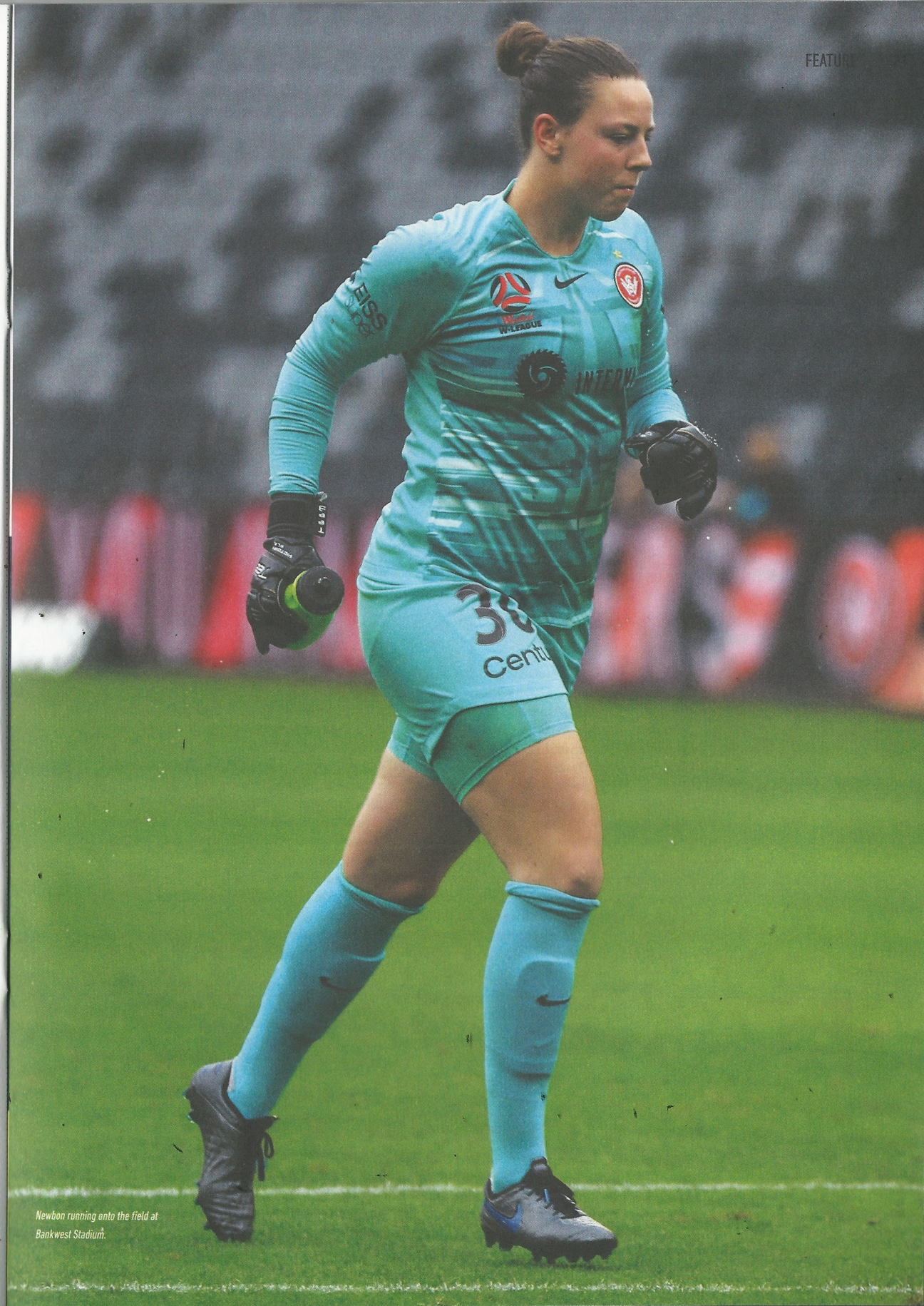
"So I gladly took the opportunity and the rest is history."

Newbon has thrived in the wonderful environment at the Wanderers.

"It's just fantastic here. I am super happy to be part of this team. The environment and atmosphere is just amazing," added Newbon.

"The set up here is incredible ... The facilities, the staff, you couldn't ask for anything better.

"The support is just fantastic."



Newbon running onto the field at Bankwest Stadium.

YOUNG GUNS ON OLYMPIC STAGE

TWO WANDERERS HAVE TAKEN A GIANT STEP TOWARDS PLAYING IN THE BIGGEST TOURNAMENT OF THEIR CAREERS

DEFENDER TASS MOURDOUKOUTAS and midfielder Keanu Baccus played pivotal roles in helping the Olyroos qualify for the Olympics for the first time in 12 years.

Both played the full 90 minutes as Australia beat Uzbekistan 1-0 in the play-off for third and fourth spot at the AFC Under 23s championships in Thailand.

Despite the gruelling schedule and tough conditions, the duo figured in most of the games in the tournament with coach Graham Arnold showing great faith in their ability to contribute to the success of the team.

Baccus, who described the feeling of qualifying as "one of the best of my career", praised the camaraderie in the squad, revealing they were a close-knit unit that was devoid of egos and negativity.

"Everyone was there determined to achieve good things. It was a great group of boys that was aiming for the same target," said Baccus.

"Hopefully, we can bring that sort of similar culture back and show what the Wanderers are really made of."

Mourdoukoutas echoed those sentiments.

"For sure there we no big egos and it is a big reason why teams are successful in general, but especially this team," said the defender.

"If there were boys not willing to give 100 percent on any given day then we may have lost a game and not gone through.

"It was a long tournament and not easy to keep your mind focussed every day so you needed the support and the group around you."

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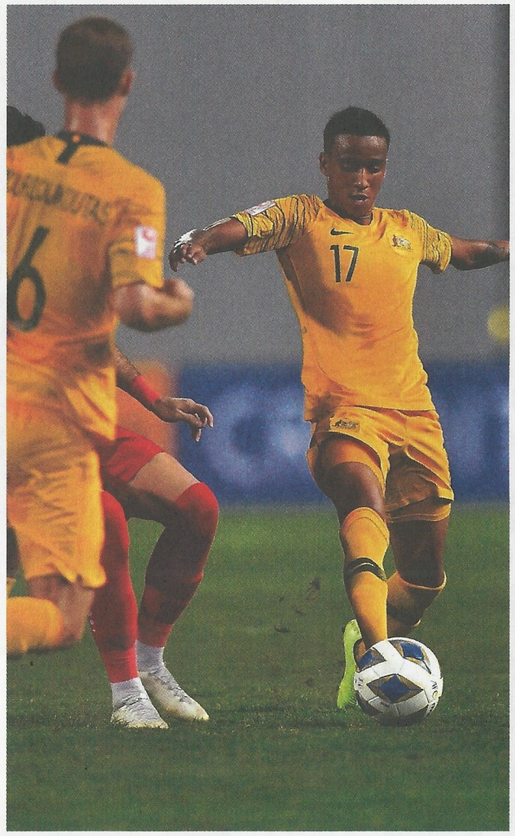

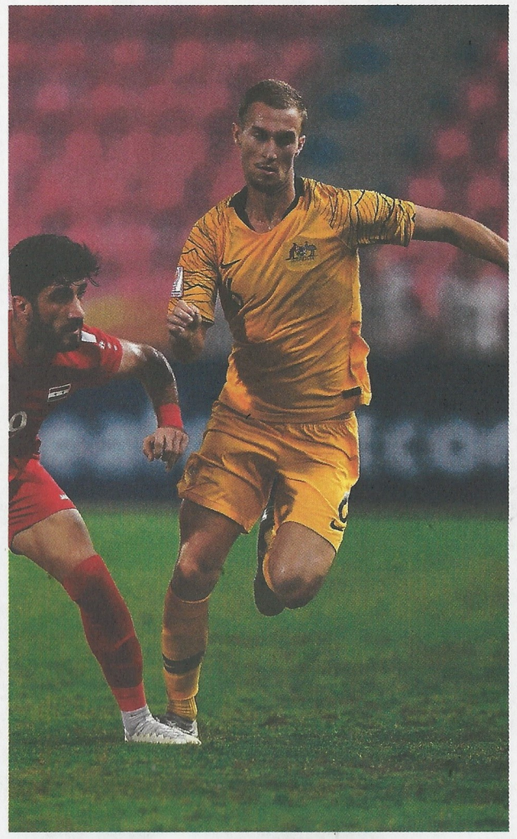

(Left to right) Baccus and Mourdoukoutas playing in the tournament.

The Olyroos qualified from their group for the knock out stage, going on to beat Syria in a Quarter Final before losing 2-0 to a red hot South Korea in a Semi Final.

However, the Australians still had another chance to qualify for Tokyo. It meant they had to beat Uzbekistan in the play-off for third and fourth spot.

Nick D'Agostino's second half goal was enough to do the job. As the full-time whistle blew, it was something Mourdoukoutas and Baccus will never forget.

"The emotion just took over and once we made the quarter finals we knew it was well and truly on," said Mourdoukoutas.

"We had a good test against Syria and got past them.

"Then we knew we had two shots. We knew Korea were a strong side and massive credit to them. They played well and deservedly won the tournament.

"But, at the end of the day, we gave ourselves the best chance with the two games. We just had to beat Uzbekistan and when that final whistle blew it was unbelievable. Emotion took over.

"Just to know everyone back home, family, friends, relatives, the Wanderers, the fans were all proud of us was just something very special."

Baccus and Mourdoukoutas had slow starts to the tournament but both agreed they grew into it.

"For me, it was tough at the start," admitted Baccus.

"It was really muggy and humid. The sun is not as harsh as it is here, but I was struggling to get going.

"But, for sure I grew into the tournament. I got rested for the second game but then I kicked on and got going."

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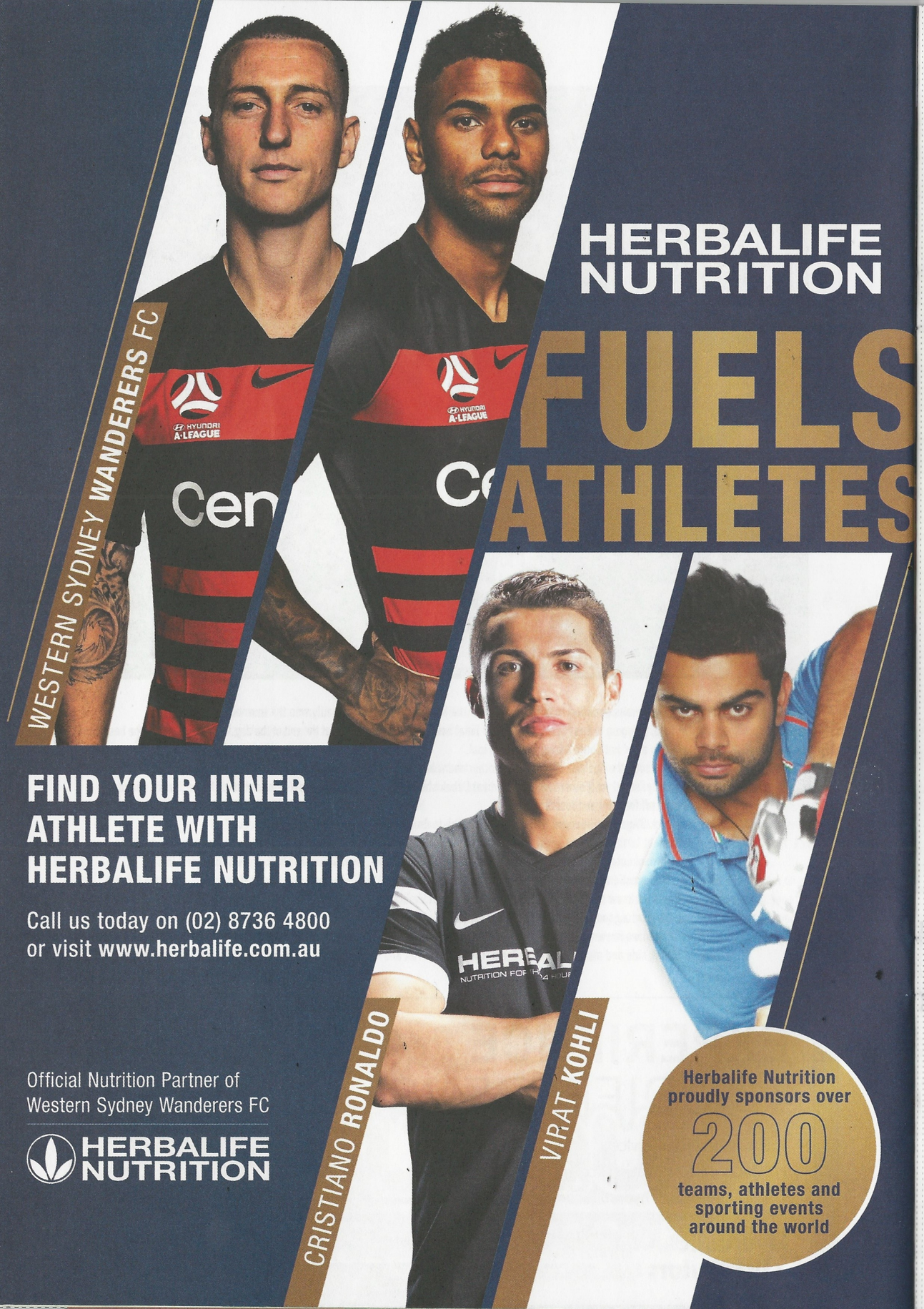

TAKE FIVE

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
Turner Freeman
LAWYERS

KEANU BACCUS IS DETERMINED TO SHOW WHAT THE WANDERERS ARE REALLY MADE OF.

FOR ME, IT was very tough at the start of our recent Olyroos campaign.

It was really muggy and humid.

The sun is not as harsh as it is here, but I was struggling to get going.

But, for sure I grew into the tournament.

I got rested for the second game but then I kicked on and got going for the rest of the tournament.

Everyone was there determined to achieve good things. It was a great group of boys that was aiming for the same target.

We had a game plan throughout the tournament and we stuck to it in the end we defended well we saw the game out. I think we were fit enough and the boys did well in the end.

I think we all aspire as young players to play in the Olympics or World Cups, so that kind of pressure is needed for us young players to improve and get better. The more we play in that kind of environment the better we're going to be as young players.

Hopefully, we can bring that sort of similar culture back and show what the Wanderers are really made of.

The win against Central Coast was very important I think for our confidence and morale boost in the camp with the derby coming up, so it was a massive game for us.

It's been good, JP's (de Marigny) been around for a while now as well, so he knows the ins-and-outs and what the boys are like and our strengths-and-weakness. He fits in the role well and hopefully we can get some results.

I think there's definitely a bit of a culture swing the boys are looking more confident and we're ready to go.

There's positivity, everyone seems to be a bit more happy playing with a smile on our face, starting to enjoy football again. W

LISTEN TO SOME OF THE BEST TRACKS FROM WESTERN SYDNEY ARTISTS. SEARCH WSWANDERERSFC ON SPOTIFY.

SHE LOOKS SO PERFECT **5 SECONDS OF SUMMER**
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WANDERERS TEAM UP WITH GUIDE DOGS NSW/ACT

AS PART OF the Wanderers ongoing support of Football 4 All, the Red & Black will be teaming up with Guide Dogs NSW/ACT to raise awareness of the leading provider of services for people with low vision or blindness.

Every year, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT help more than 4000 people live independent lives and it is important to Guide Dogs that public events and experiences, like sporting events, are easily accessible to people with low vision or blindness.

The Wanderers match tonight against Newcastle Jets will be raising awareness of the incredible work Guide Dogs NSW/ACT do in the Western Sydney region, encouraging children and adults with blindness or low vision to be involved in the game.

Prior to kick-off at Bankwest Stadium, children with low vision or blindness, using white canes will accompany Wanderers players onto the field and will be joined by orientation and mobility staff.

At Wanderland Avenue, there will be many fun and educational activities including a noise ball station and football drills with vision impairment goggles.

The Guide Dogs mascot will also join Sunny and Wesley Fox around the ground plus Guide Dogs' 4-metre tall Guide Dog Gulliver will also be outside Gate B.

Western Sydney Wanderers fan Liz Wheeler said the relationship between Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and the Wanderers is important in raising awareness in the accessibility of Bankwest Stadium.

"My Dad is a massive Western Sydney Wanderers fan and I love nothing more than sharing his passion," said Wheeler.

"When football runs in your DNA, blindness or low vision shouldn't stop you from participating in the family tradition of throwing on the team colours, going to the stadium and cheering until you lose your voice!

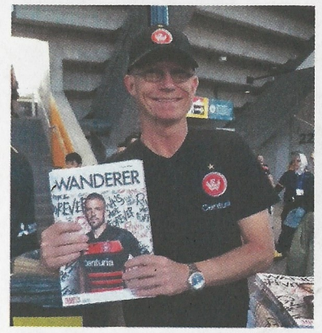
"As a Wanderers supporter, I'm a regular to Bankwest Stadium and it's great to know that my Guide Dog can help guide me all the way into the stadium to an accessible seat, where I can be fully immersed in the experience of the game."

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Community Partnership Coordinator Georgia Cheyne said she was proud of Guide Dogs involvement in this weekend's match.

"Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is excited to be teaming up with the Wanderers at their Football 4 All match this weekend," said Cheyne.

"It's so important that sports and sporting events are inclusive and accessible to people with low vision or blindness.

"By working with the Western Sydney Wanderers, we hope to raise awareness of and funds for the services we provide to the Western Sydney community, so that people with low vision or blindness lead safe and independent lives."



HELPING OUT

THIS WEEK OUR Centuria Wandercrew volunteer of the week is Tom Daniels one of our Match Day Programme Distributors!

Tom helps to coordinate our Match Day Programme Distributors at our home games in Wanderland.

Tom is a part of the Centuria Wandercrew workforce and roles range from helping with our activations to taking care helping at various events we host over the season.

SIGN UP TODAY TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE CLUB VISIT WANDERLAND.COM.AU/WANDERCREW

BAKED CHICKEN SEASONED WITH VEGETA

SERVES 4

COOK TIME 45 MINUTES
(5 MIN PREP + 40 MIN COOKING)
+ MARINATING

Ingredients

1 kg	Chicken legs and wings
1 tbs	Vegeta Chicken Stock Powder
3 tbs	Oil
80g	Bread crumbs

Side dish: roasted peppers

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C
2. Sprinkle chicken with Vegeta Chicken Stock Powder, mix well to ensure meat is evenly seasoned with Vegeta.
3. Set aside chicken to marinate for about 30 minutes.
4. Cover both sides of chicken legs and wings with bread crumbs.
5. Place chicken in baking dish lined with baking paper.
6. Sprinkle chicken with oil, place in oven to bake for 40 minutes until golden and cooked through.

Now available at: Woolworths • Coles • IGA • Amazon Australia Pantry
For more meal ideas: Vegeta Australia vegeta_australia www.vegeta.com.au

MACCAS TURNING UP THE HEAT

With a revamp of its famous McChicken® burger, and the return of one popular menu favourite.

Last week, Macca's launched the Spicy Chicken range with three new takes on their iconic chicken burger and the return of a popular menu favourite: Spicy Chicken McNuggets®.

The spicy makeover puts the power in your hands with three new heat levels: spicy, spicier and spiciest, meaning you can choose the option best suited to your tastebuds.

The Spicy Chicken range is available now in all McDonald's® restaurants around Australia for a limited time only and can be ordered via the mymacca's® app and through McDelivery®.

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Are you the biggest Wanderers fan? Want to Wander even further?

You could take your passion on the road and cheer on the boys at an away match, all thanks to Macca's.

You could win a trip to Melbourne to watch Melbourne City v Western Sydney Wanderers on Saturday 14 March, including:

- Return flights from Sydney to Melbourne for you and a mate
- Transfers from the airport
- One night of accommodation
- Two (2) corporate tickets including food and beverage package
- Wanderers merchandise packs

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